cover the early years of the sugar industry, agricultural trade, history, aboriginal field studies, and natural scenery in Taiwan. Once the materials are converted to digital format, the NCL will prepare metadata descriptions for all of these items, after which these resources will be available for public viewing, display, and transmission.

■ **2004 Achievements of the National Digital Archive Program**

The National Digital Archive Program was launched to preserve important documents of Taiwan in digital form as a resource for cultural, social, industrial, and economic development.

The 2004 achievements of the program were displayed from February 25 to March 6, 2005, at the National Museum of Natural Science in Taichung. The display was jointly sponsored by the Planning Office of the National Digital Archive Program and the Digital Archive Plan of the National Museum of Natural Science (NMNS). The display was aimed at increasing public awareness of the program, as well as interest in and knowledge of digital archive resources, in central and southern Taiwan. (photo 1)

The exhibition comprises 12 theme displays and one general display as follows:

● Zoology: Introductions to the digital collection at the Museum of Insect Specimens at the National Taiwan University (NTU) and the shellfish/fish database at the Museum of Zoology

● Botany: Local plant database

● Geology: Digital geological collections of NTU and NMNS

● Anthropology: Digital collection on Taiwan aboriginals and union database on ethnic groups in southwestern China

● Archeology: Digitalized archeological appraisals and studies from 1928 to 1945; field studies from 1971 to 1999; major archeological specimens from the Archeological Department at NTU, and resources on the archeological remains and sites of the Yansyusiaotun and Shihsanhang cultures

- Painting & Calligraphy: Digitalized paintings and calligraphy scrolls from the National Palace Museum collection
- Archives: Government and important modern diplomatic/economic archives of Academia Sinica's Institute of History and Philology, National Archive and Presidential Archive materials, and digitized historical documents from the Japanese occupation and post-war periods
- Cultural Relics: Digitized online searchable collection of cultural relics from the National Palace Museum cultural; and seals and jade objects in the collection of the National Museum of History
- Maps and Remote Sensing Images: Digital collection and applications of maps and remote sensing images
- Rubbings: Digitalized searchable images of rubbings from oracle bones, bronze vessels, Han dynasty bamboo/wooden strips and engravings, and Buddhist stone reliefs
- Rare Books: Digitized rare books, including rare books in the National Palace Museum collection
- News: Digitized news dispatches of the National Digital Archive and periodicals and newspapers in the NCL collection.

The theme displays presented program achievements over the past three years through exhibits featuring digital databases, CD presentations, book displays, and professional guides.
The general display area comprised a number of different exhibits, including online games, virtual reality scenes, learning websites, and prize-winning lesson plans.

Coinciding with the exhibition were two seminars on the themes of "Digital Resource Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation" and "Digital Collections and their Teaching Applications". Both seminars were held in Taichung at the NMNS.

For the first seminar, held on March 3, scholars and experts from the U.S., U.K., New Zealand, and Russia were invited to share their experience and learn more about digital archiving trends in Taiwan. Most of the foreign participants had experience in carrying out digital archiving programs, and several headed such programs in Europe and the U.S. The keynote speakers and topics were:

(1) Penny Carnaby: New Zealand Treasures: Strategies for Preserving National Digital Cultural Assets; (2) Seddon Bennington: Breaking Through the Time-Space Limit; Embracing Museum Treasures; (3) Polyakova Olga Anatolyevna: IT Applications: Innovative Historical Displays at the Kolomenskoye Museum; (4) Noll Lev Yakovlevitch: Museum IT Applications: Traditions and Trends; (5) Martha Crawley: Recent Developments in Digital Cultural Content at U.S. Museums and Libraries; (6) Howard Besser: The Next Challenge: From Digital Acquisition to Digital Archiving and Libraries; and (7) Chris Batt: Digital Future.

The "Digital Archives and their Teaching Applications" Seminar followed on March 5. Digital archiving involves more than just the archiving of cultural and historical items. It also involves the promotion of utilization of such resources and their educational function, for example by introducing such resources into primary and middle school education. This seminar brought together experts and scholars from the business, government, academic, and research sectors to explore the following three major topics: integration of digital collections into primary and middle school education, archive organizations, and digital education; digital archives; and the digital learning industry. Local experts and scholars involved in developing digital-learning programs were invited to share their experience and provide input on the future development of digital learning applications in Taiwan.

EVENTS

■ Ku Min Elected as Eighth APLAP President

The Eighth Biennial Conference of the Association of Parliamentary Librarians of Asia and the Pacific (APLAP) met in New Delhi, India, from January 18 to 22, 2005. Sixty-eight delegates and observers from 15 countries attended the conference, which was inaugurated by Speaker Somnath Chatterjee. Among the represented countries were Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Turkey, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia, Fiji, and Kiribati.